

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 OIC-02 IOE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /088 W

-----107598 081736Z /44

O R 081700Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4742

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 4089

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, DA

SUBJ: ILO - DANISH LO SUGGESTS CONSULTATION WITH AFL-CIO

SUMMARY: SINCE JUNE ILO CONFERENCE ENDED, THE DANISH PRESS HAS

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DESCRIBED THE CONFERENCE IN GLOOMY TERMS. WORKER AND EMPLOYER
PUBLICATIONS REPORT THAT POLITICIZATION IN THE ILO CONTINUES.

THERE IS CONCERN IN ALL THE TRIPARTITE ELEMENTS ABOUT THE EFFECT
OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL ON THE ORGANIZATION. THE DANISH TRADE UNION
FEDERATION'S PRESIDENT, THOMAS NIELSEN, HAS SUGGESTED CONSULTA-
TIONS WITH THE AFL-CIO BEFORE A DECISION ON ITS RECOMMENDATION
TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. NO ONE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF

THE ILO, WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WITHDRAWS OR NOT. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE THE END OF THE JUNE MEETING OF THE ILO INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE, THE DANISH TRADE UNION (LO) PRESS AND THE LO-OWNED DAILY NEWSPAPER AKTUELT HAVE CARRIED REPORTS DESCRIBING THE FAILURE OF THE CONFERENCE. THESE REPORTS NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH SOME TECHNICAL WORK WAS ACCOMPLISHED, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO RETURN THE ORGANIZATION TO ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSES. THE POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO CONTINUED THROUGH THE CONNIVANCE OF THE ARABS, THE SOCIALIST STATES, AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHO KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE DOING. NEVERTHELESS, LO SPOKESMAN SVEND BACHE VOGNBJERG IS QUOTED IN AKTUELT AS SAYING THAT THE DANES WILL URGE THE US TO REMAIN IN THE ILO AND THAT IF THE UNITED STATES DOES WITHDRAW, THE DANES WILL DO EVERYTHING TO GET THE UNITED STATES TO RETURN.

2. THE DANISH EMPLOYERS WERE CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE LABOR CONFERENCE. THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF THE PUBLICATION, ARBEJDSGIVEREN, CARRIED AN ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY INTERNATIONAL SECTION CHIEF, JØRGEN STENBJERRE, DEPLORING THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING AND STATING THAT IN THE CONTROVERSIAL AREAS THE SESSION HAD GONE ABOUT AS BADLY AS IT COULD HAVE. STENBJERRE WROTE THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS RUN BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIALIST LANDS; AND THAT THEY WOULD RUN IT IN THE FUTURE. ALTHOUGH THE DANISH EMPLOYERS' CONFEDERATION HAS NOT ADOPTED A POSITION ON THE ILO, ITS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR TOLD THE LABOR ATTACHE: "THE UNITED STATES SHOULD GET OUT. YOU SHOULD GET OUT AS

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QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."

3. IN A MEETING JULY 8 LO'S PRESIDENT THOMAS NIELSEN TOLD LABATT HE HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE AFL-CIO DEPLORING THE RECENT CONDUCT OF THE ILO INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE. THE TELEGRAM REQUESTS THE AFL-CIO TO CONSIDER CONSULTATIONS WITH EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS BEFORE THE AFL-CIO FINALLY DETERMINES ITS POSITION ON THE ILO. NIELSEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE HAD WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF THE DANISH LO AND NOT IN HIS CAPACITY AS VP OF THE ICFTU. HE SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE CONSULTATION MIGHT INCLUDE JOE MORRIS AND SOME OTHER EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES. IN CONVERSATIONS, HE PRAISED THE WORK OF THE ILO IN THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE COURSE WHICH THE ILO WOULD FOLLOW IN THE FUTURE. HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE US WITHDREW, THE ORGANIZATION WOULD EVENTUALLY DISINTERGRATE.

4. NIELSEN WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT A DECISION ON AFL-CIO PARTICIPATION IN ILO WOULD COME REPAIDLY, PERHAPS NEXT WEEK. CONSEQUENTLY, HE DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATIONS HE HAD PROPOSED. (NIELSEN LEAVES ON A TWO WEEK VACATION THIS EVENING AND EXPECTS TO BE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN CONSULTATIONS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE ECONOMIC POLICIES AFTER HE

RETURNS.)

5. ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE, THE PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, JENS WANDALL, PLEADED THIS WEEK FOR A CONTINUATION OF US MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO. HE MADE THE POINT THAT IF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WITHDRAW, MOST IMPORTANT POSITCONS IN THE ILO WOULD GO TO EASTERN BLOC AND GROUP OF 77 DELEGATES.

6. COMMENT: NONE OF OUR DANISH INTERLOCUTORS FORESEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN FUTURE ILO CONDUCT WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WITHDRAWS OR NOT. THE 3 COMPONENTS OF THE DANISH ILO REPRESENTATION HAVE NOT FORMALLY BEGUN TO CONSIDER WHAT THEY MIGHT DO SHOULD THE UNITED STATES CARRY THROUGH ITS THREAT. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF US
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WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO ON THE OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS THAN THE NARROWER ISSUE OF THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ILO. DEAN

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, PRESS CONFERENCES, MEETINGS
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Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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